

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Reference Guide: Restricted Use Permit for Still Photography and Filming

This reference guide provides information on the permit required to conduct photography or filming for commercial purposes on Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks land (FWP). The size of your crew and the type, timing and location of your proposed activity will determine the availability of the permit and the permit fee. A “crew member” means a photographer, cinematographer, model, or any supporting member of a commercial photography or filming activity. Please note that commercial use on FWP land is a privilege, not a right. Authorization may be denied, amended, or revoked at any time for cause.

Crews of one to three people

- A crew of up to three people may obtain a statewide permit that authorizes photography or filming at all FWP sites unless posted otherwise. This is an annual permit that is valid for the calendar year (expiration date: December 31). The cost of the permit is \$50. FWP may waive or adjust the fees for still photography and filming when the sole purpose of the use is to promote FWP land and resources. You will need to complete a Restricted Use Permit Application and mail it and the \$50 permit fee to an FWP Regional Office (addresses provided on permit application) or apply in person at a regional office or the FWP site where you wish to conduct use.
- There are terms and conditions for commercial use permits (listed on the permit application). Please review these before you submit your application.
- Note: Upon receipt of your application and fee FWP will send you a permit. You must have a copy of the permit on your person or readily available for inspection when conducting commercial use.
- Note: There may be times or days that are not conducive to still photography or filming at a site, e.g. a school group or special event is scheduled. FWP recommends that you call the site in advance. You are required to check in with FWP staff upon arrival at a site (before conducting use). This does not apply to un-staffed sites.

Crews of four or more people

- A crew of four or more people may only apply for a permit that is valid at specific locations and time periods (statewide permit is not available). The cost of the permit varies depending on the size of your crew. FWP may adjust the fees upward or downward to accommodate the nature of the activity and to compensate for staffing needs pertaining to the activity. FWP may waive or adjust the fees for still photography and filming when the sole purpose of the use is to promote department land and resources. The crew leader or contact person must complete a Restricted Use Permit Application and mail it to the FWP Regional Office in the area where you propose to conduct commercial use a minimum of 10 days prior to the time period you are requesting.
- The permit holder must possess and maintain a general liability policy that names the State of Montana – FWP as additionally insured. You will need to provide a copy of your policy or an Insurance Certificate with your permit application. The minimum coverage is \$300,000 per occurrence and \$600,000 aggregate.
- There are terms and conditions for commercial use permits (listed on the permit application). Please review these before you submit your application.
- FWP may require a security deposit in advance for some still photography and filming activities.
- Note: Upon authorization of your permit application FWP will send you a permit that specifies the locations and time period the permit is valid and the amount of the permit fee (FWP may require fee payment in advance of issuing the permit). The crew leader or contact person must have a copy of the permit on their person or readily available for inspection when conducting commercial use.
- You must check in with FWP staff upon arrival (before conducting use). This does not apply to un-staffed sites.

Permit Fees for Still Photography and Filming

1 to 3 person crew: \$25 per day or \$50 per year

4 to 7 person crew: \$50 per day

8 to 20 person crew: \$100 per day

21 to 35 person crew: \$200 per day

36 to 50 person crew: \$300 per day

51 or more person crew: \$400 per day

Phone (406) 444-3888 or email csperry@mt.gov for more information on conducting commercial use on FWP land.
